

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2818

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5638

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO CRISIS CONSULTATIONS SUGGESTED PROCEDURAL IMPROVEMENT

REF. A. JCS MESSAGE 2606, DTG 250441Z OCT 73

B. JCS MESSAGE 2717, DTG 250710Z OCT 73

C. STATE 210443 NODIS

D. USDELMC MESSAGE 607/73, DTG 290805Z OCT 73

E. USNATO 5133 NODIS

F. STATE 210450 NODIC

SUMMARY. MISSION'S REVIEW OF ACTIONS RELATED TO THE PRECAUTIONARY ALERT OF U.S. FORCES ON OCT 25 INDICATES THAT IN A FAST BREAKING SIHSOWMN, IMMEDIATE TRANSMITTAL OF NOTIFICATION MESSAGES OVER THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS IN THE COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING WAS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ON OCT 25 WITH RESPECT TO CONSULTATIONS AT NATO HQ. ALL TIMES ARE GREENWICH MEAN TIME UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN:

A. THE JCS FLASH ALERTING MESSAGE TO U.S. UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED COMMANDS (REF A) WAS DISPATCHED AT 4:41A.M. AND RECEIVED IN THE USNATO COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AT 4:50 A.M.

B. A SECOND JCS FLASH MESSAGE WAS DISPATCHED AT 7:10 A.M. ADVISING NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT THE U.S. HAD DECLARED DEFCON 3 FOR U.S. FORCES WORLDWIDE, AND REQUESTING THE USDELMC TO NOTIFY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (REF B). MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED CONFIDENTIAL

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IN USNATO AT 7:25 A.M.

C. SECRETARY KISSINGER ADVISED AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD BY FLASH MESSAGE (REF C, DISPATCHED 7:37 A.M., RECEIVED 8:04 A.M.)

THAT U.S.M HAD TAKEN CERTAIN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, AND THAT FULLER GUIDANCE FOR USE WITH COUNCIL WOULD BE RECEIVED BY ABOUT 6:30 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME.

D. THE U.S. MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE, GENERAL MILTON, ANNOUNCED TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE DURING MEETING THAT CONVENED AT 9:00 A.M. THAT U.S. FORCES WORLDWIDE WERE IN DEFCON 3 (REF D).

E. AWARE THAT GENERAL MILTON HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OF THE ALERT, AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD INFORMED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, AT CONCLUSION OF 11:00 A.M. RESTRICTED BRIEFING, THAT GENERAL MILTON HAD NOTIFIED THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT THE U.S. HAD TAKEN CERTAIN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES (REF E). SUBSEQUENTLY, AT SAME MEETING, REF F ARRIVED AND AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD IMMEDIATELY DREW UPON IT TO OFFICIALLY INFORM THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF THE U.S. ALERT AND REASONS THEREFOR.

2. WE CAN IDENTIFY FOUR REASONS WHY THE ABOVE SEQUENCE PROVED UPSETTING TO THE ALLIES:

A. WELL BEFORE THE 11:00 A.M. PERMREPS' BRIEFING, THEIR CAPITALS HAD ALREADY BEEN SURPRISED TO LEARN OF THE ALERT THROUGH AN N JAP NEWS BULLETIN AND A BBC BROADCAST.

B. ALLIES ON WHOSE TERRITORY AFFECTED U.S. FORCES WERE STATIONED FELT THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN WARNED--NOT CONSULTED, BUT WARNED--OF THE U.S. ALERT.

C. THE UNITED STATES HAD SOUGHT EARLIER TO HARMONIZE ALLIED DIPLOMATIC REACTIONS TO SOVIET MOVES; IN THIS INSTANCE THE U.S. ACTED WITHOUT INFORMING ALLIES OF THE ACTION.

D. CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES HERE TOLD US THAT THE ALERT OF THE CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENSE COMMAND MEANT THAT SOME CANADIANS WERE CALLED IN DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, BUT OTTAWA DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING UNTIL MORNING.

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3. IN FUTURE CRISIS SITUATIONS WHEN THE PACE OF EVENTS REQUIRES SPEED, MISSION SUGGESTS THAT NATO ALLIED CAPITALS FIRST BE INFORMED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE OVER THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. IT WOULD BE MOST DESIRABLE IF THIS FIRST MESSAGE WENT OUT IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE JCS ALERTING MESSAGE. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD INCLUDE THE NATO SITUATION CENTER SPECIFICALLY SLUGGED FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES, AND AS A MINIMUM THOSE NATO CAPITALS ON WHOSE TERRITORY U.S. FORCES ARE STATIONED (PARIS HAS NO NWCS TERMINAL; THEREFORE, IF PARIS IS ALSO TO BE INFORMED THE NATO SITUATION CENTER SHOULD BE REQUESTED TO RE-TRANSMIT). FINALLY, AFTER THIS NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN MADE OVER THE NWCS, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL BE USED SOON THEREAFTER TO EXPLAIN THE U.S. ACTIONS, THE CIRCUMSTANCES

SURROUNDING IT, AND ANTICIPATED NEXT STEPS.

RUMSFELD

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. KURZE, 11/21/73.

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